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SENT TO: Amembassy, LONDON
RPTD INFO: Amembassy, TRIPOLI 802

773.5-MSP

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.M. Raz DATE 5/6/82
FOREIGN SERVICE ... AFFAIRS

Origin

Info:

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Please deliver following message from Secretary to Fonmin Selwyn Lloyd. This message in reply Lloyd's message received March 24 on subject Libya:

QUOTE Dear Selwyn:

[redacted]

773.5 MSP/4-1058

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C/P

It appears to me that the time has now come when we/ [redacted] should sit down with the Libyans, as you have done, and explain to them the full extent to which the United States will be able to assist them in their financial and military problems. I doubt if it will be any easier for us than it was for you to satisfy them. [redacted]

773.5 MSP/4-1058

Correction made by RM/R

Drafted by: AF:AFN:USMak[illegible] 3/28/58

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: John Foster Dulles [redacted] Schuyler Cammann

Clearances:
Defense (draft) - Mr. Sprague
AF - Mr. Dolgin
AF - Mr. Palmer
ICA (draft) - Belcher
AF - Mr. Nes[illegible]
NEA - Mr. Rountree
W/MSC - Mr. Barnes
BNA - Mr. Hu[illegible]
S/S - TJO

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I believe, however, that there is a reasonable chance of reassuring the Libyans as to their economic and military prospects. It would appear to me that the £2.25 million which you have said you can contribute annually to Libya and an undertaking on the United Kingdom's part to train the Libyan Army and supply the light arms and equipment requirements for an enlarged Libyan Army of up to 5,000 men should, when combined with what we are able to do in the military and financial spheres, convince the Libyans that they need not seek additional assistance from Egypt or possibly the Soviet Union. As you know, last October 23 we told the Libyans that we were prepared to discuss with them their military equipment requirements, and we have recently indicated to them that some of our financial aid might be used for budget support if Libya so desired.

I realize that the Libyans are very reluctant to rely on the United States for budgetary support in view of the uncertainty of our annual appropriations. While I can understand their feeling on this score, I hope that they will recognize that our attitude since Libyan independence has demonstrated our interest in Libya's welfare sufficiently to allay the Government's fears as to the future. While this may not be the most satisfactory situation from their point of view there seems to be no alternative that does not involve grave risks for the Libyans.

I very much hope that you find that the United Kingdom will be able to supply Libya with its light arms equipment requirements. If you could assure me that you are able to make such a commitment as well as to provide Libya with £2.25 million

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$2.25 million annually for budget support purposes and train the Libyan Army. I would instruct Ambassador Jones to initiate discussions with the Libyans at once fully on the subject of United States aid and reveal to them as ~~much~~ as possible the extent to which the United States is prepared to assist Libya in the economic and military fields. I would hope that this would serve to demonstrate to the Libyans that our respective offers of aid are adequate to meet their needs.

I will be most interested to learn your decision with regard to the light arms and equipment as well as your views regarding my suggested approach to the Libyans. Sincerely yours, Foster END QUOTE

Dulles

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